DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 365 401 JC 940 162

AUTHOR	Craft, Donald D.
TITLE	Improving Learning by Using a Symposium as an Authentic Assessment Technique.
PUB DATE	Mar 93
NOTE	9p.; In: Teaching of Psychology: Ideas and Innovations. Proceedings of the Annual Conference on Undergraduate Teaching of Psychology (7th, Ellenville, New York, March 24-26, 1993); see JC 940 159.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Community Colleges; Conferences; *Cooperative Learning; Program Descriptions; *Psychological Studies; Psychology; *Student Projects; *Student Research; Two Year Colleges; *Two Year College Students; Undergraduate Study
IDENTIFIERS	Wytheville Community College VA

ABSTRACT

During the academic year, psychology students at Wytheville Community College are exposed to many aspects of psychology and psychological research. After students complete several minor research projects, they undertake a psychology symposium. Students are divided into small groups, and each group presents a research idea to the instructor. When the idea is approved, a formal proposal for a research project, which must have a minimum of 100 subjects, is submitted. After the research is completed and a written report is prepared, a public symposium is held at which each group presents its project and fields questions from the audience. The specific objectives of the symposium are for students to demonstrate their knowledge of various aspects of psychology, to provide students with the opportunity to conduct psychological research with an emphasis on quality and ethics, and to teach students to obtain scientific evidence with an open mind and analyze resulting data and draw appropriate conclusions. In addition, students learn lifetime skills by analyzing group situations, solving problems cooperatively, thinking critically and objectively, organizing their work, seeking help when needed, communicating through writing and public speaking, applying knowledge, and making responsible decisions. A timeline for the psychology symposium is included. (AC)

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ED 365 401

Improving Student Learning By Using A Symposium As An Authentic Assessment Technique

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Donald D. Craft
Assoc. Prof., Psychology
Wytheville Community College
Wytheville, VA 24382
(703) 228-5541, X377

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WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
1963

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IMPROVING STUDENT LEARNING BY USING A
SYMPOSIUM AS AN AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE

During the academic year the students in General Psychology 201 and 202 are exposed to many aspects of psychology and psychological research. After completing several minor research projects which are designed to teach students the basics of scientific research, a psychology symposium is undertaken which constitutes a significant portion of the final course grade.

For the project, students are divided into small groups, and a research idea is presented to the instructor. When the idea is approved, the group submits a formal research proposal which must have a minimum of 100 subjects. Then, the actual research proceeds.

Each group then compiles a written document which follows the guidelines of the APA Publication Manual. Additionally, a public symposium is held wherein each group presents its project orally, followed by fielding questions from the audience.

Specific objectives of the Symposium include:

1. Academically:
    a. for students to demonstrate their understanding of various aspects of psychology,
    b. to provide the opportunity for students to

conduct psychological research with emphasis on quality and ethics,

c. to obtain scientific evidence with an open mind, and

d. to analyze data and draw appropriate conclusions.

2. Develop lifetime skills by learning how to:

a. analyze group situations,

b. solve problems cooperatively

c. think critically and objectively

d. organize work,

e. seek help when needed,

f. effectively communicate through writing and public speaking,

g. apply knowledge, and

h. make responsible decisions.

PSYCHOLOGY SYMPOSIUM
Thursday, April 22, 1993
Important Dates

Activity	Due Dates	
	Section 01 Wed.	Sections 02 & 03 Thurs.
Group Membership	Jan. 20	Jan. 21
Topic	Jan. 27	Jan. 28
Hypothesis	Feb. 3	Feb. 4
Method	Feb. 10	Feb. 11
Documents	Feb. 24	Feb. 25

NOTE: After the instructor's approval of the above listed activities, the actual research may begin!

Progress Report	March 10	March 11
Progress Report	March 31	April 1
Progress Report	April 14	April 15

NOTE: There will be a five (5) point deduction from the final score for each calendar day that any of the above items are late. The deduction will be from the score of <u>each</u> member of the late group.

SYMPOSIUM IN GRAYSON COMMONS, 7:30 p.m., APRIL 22, 1993

NOTE: The written paper will be due before or by the time of the regularly scheduled final exam.

During the week of April 26 - April 30 the Psychology classes will not meet. The time is provided for each group to refine the written paper.

PSYCHOLOGY 202
Symposium

REPORT OF THE GROUP LEADER

Group Number _____; Leader _____ (Signature)

Date _____

Please comment on the following items for the group as a whole, and for specific individuals where applicable: (Use additional sheets if necessary.)

A. Attendance at planning/work sessions:

B. Amount of contribution/participation to the total project:

C. Deadlines met:

D. Comments/explanation of the above, or additional information:

PSYCHOLOGY 202
Symposium

I certify to Mr. Craft that, for the Symposium, I attended _____ percent of the planning/work sessions involved with the group project.

In comparison to the other members of my group, I did (check one):

_____ an equal amount of work

_____ a greater amount of work

_____ less than the other members.

Based on the following scale:

135-150 = A
120-134 = B
105-119 = C
90-104 = D
0- 89 = F

My contribution to the group project should receive: _____ points.

(Note: 50 points are automatically awarded for attending the Symposium, bringing the grand total to 200 points.)

(Please use the space below your signature for any comments you wish to make.)

Signed _____

April 22, 1993

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SYMPOSIUM GRADE

Name _____

Attendance at Symposium _____

Paper _____

Total _____

*Deductions _____

GRAND TOTAL _____

*Deductions listed:

8

SYMPOSIUM WRITTEN FORMAT

1. Title, Experimenter(s)
2. Introduction and Review of the Literature. (Why study this? Purpose? Other justification?)
3. Hypothesis(ses)
4. Subjects
5. Equipment (special apparatus, instructions)
6. Procedure (detailed)
7. Presentation of Data
8. Analysis of Data
9. Summary and Conclusions
10. Recommendations (if any)
11. References
12. Appendix